UNITED
NATIONS

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/25072
11 January 1993

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 7 JANUARY 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CANADA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On behalf of the Canadian Government and in accordance with Security Council resolution 794 (1992), paragraph 18, I have the honour to inform you that Canada, on 4 December 1992 announced a contribution of one infantry battalion of 900 troops to participate in the Unified Command forces in Somalia. This replaces Canada's earlier commitment of up to 750 military personnel for peace-keeping duties with the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM). The Canadian battalion is now fully deployed to Somalia and has established a command centre in the vicinity of Belet Uen where the battalion will contribute to the establishment of a secure environment for humanitarian relief operations. The Canadian Commander at Belet Uen has initiated discussions with local leaders as part of a civil-military process. Canada has also committed one supply ship, the HMCS Preserver, to provide logistical and medical support for the Canadian battalion as well as for the Unified Command.

In addition, since January 1992 Canada has contributed $22.8 million in humanitarian assistance to Somalia and Somali refugees in neighbouring countries. Canada is also supporting the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees programme in Ethiopia, which includes refugees from Somalia. In response to the Somalia airlift operation which began on 12 September, Canada has provided three Hercules C-130 cargo aircraft to support the operations of the International Committee of the Red Cross and World Food Programme. The provision of Canadian aircraft for the airlift has been extended to 31 January.

The Government of Canada looks forward to receiving an early consolidated report on national contributions to the enforcement action in Somalia as well as continuing reports on the progress to date in the implementation of resolution 794 (1992).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Louise FRECHETTE
Ambassador and Permanent Representative

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